

REMARKS

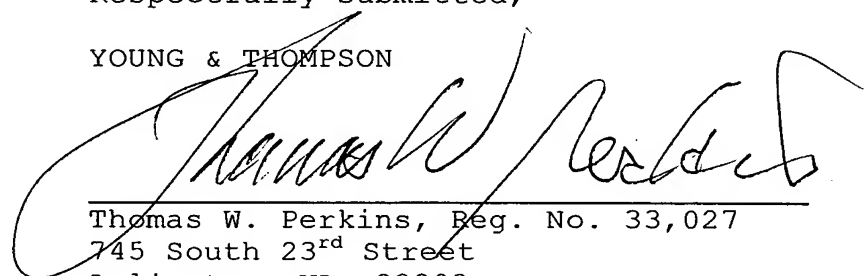
Supplemental to the response filed on April 6, 2005, applicant would like to further amend the claims in this application to clarify when the gas containing nitrogen is introduced. The above amendments mean that nitrogen is not necessary for removing the surface oxide from the copper interconnect and hydrogen is not necessary for forming the SiN cap.

Consideration of this further amendment and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas W. Perkins', is written over the printed name and address.

Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

TWP/lk